REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-reference application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-4, 14-17, 25-28, and 38-41 are canceled without prejudice, claims 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 24, 29-31, 33, 35, 37, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 50-54 are amended, and claims 5-13, 18-24, 29-37, and 42-54 are pending in the application.

Claims 5, 18, 29, and 42 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective independent claims 1, 14, 25, 38, and the respective intervening claims.

Claims 1-3, 14-16, 25-27, and 38-40 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0159569 by Hasegawa. The cancellation of these claims renders the rejection moot.

Claims 4-13, 17-24, 28-37, and 41-50 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) in view of Hasegawa and U.S. Patent No. 6,014,711 to Brown. This rejection is respectfully traversed as it applies to the pending claims 5-13, 18-24, 29-37, and 42-50.

Each of the independent claims 5, 18, 29, and 42 specify that the recording device at the calling party premises is configured for retrieving messaging subscriber attributes specifying a destination message store for a messaging subscriber. In particular, the recording device retrieves the messaging subscriber attributes by sending onto an IP network a query according to LDAP protocol for the messaging subscriber attributes, based on a dialed number input by the calling party.

Hence, the recording device initiates its own LDAP query, enabling the recording device to retrieve the messaging subscriber attributes based on the dialed number. Moreover, the

initiation of an LDAP query based on the dialed number input by the calling party enables use of relevant hierarchal searching techniques, enabling the LDAP query to be routed throughout the IP network as needed to locate the messaging subscriber attributes, even if the destination subscriber is a subscriber of a remote network (see, e.g., page 9, line 26 to page 10, line 2).

These and other features are neither disclosed nor suggested in the applied prior art.

As admitted in the Official Action, Hasegawa neither discloses nor suggests sending onto an IP network a query based on the dialed number input by the calling party; rather, Hasegawa sends a proprietary-based query to the home resource register (HRR) database 114.

Brown teaches a translation service provider 14 that provides electronic mail relay translation services required by telecommunications application processes (such as theVMS 18) which do not support directory query capability. In particular, a telephone subscriber 32 uses the VMS 18 to create a voice message via direct connection to the PBX or dial-up connection via the PSTN 30; the VMS 18 converts the message to an electronic mail format, and the SMTP host 22 sends the electronic message to the SMTP host 14 of the translation service provider. (Col. 4, lines 4-46).

The translation service provider 10 then issues the LDAP query to the directory servers 34, which respond to the LDAP query with a destination address for the electronic message for use by the translation service provider 10 in supplying the voice message to the destination voice mailbox.

Hence, the hypothetical combination would provide no more than the translation service provider 10 being deployed within the data network 110 of Hasegawa for use by the HRR 114 if the HRR 114 does not include within its proprietary databases the destination address for the

destination message store. In other words, Brown teaches that the HRR 114 would access the translation service provider 10 since the HRR 114 does not support directory query capability.

Hence, the query generated by the HRR 114 in the hypothetical combination is limited by the proprietary nature of its internal databases, which typically uses a non-hierarchal data structure; consequently, queries generated by the mobile handset 100 to the HRR 114 of Hasegawa will not generate a meaningful response unless there is an exact match to the query.

Independent claims 5, 18, 29, and 42, however, specify that the recording device at the calling party premises sends onto the IP network the query according to LDAP protocol. Hence, the recording device can utilize the advantages of advanced database queries using relational and hierarchal data structures which are provided by LDAP queries -- in other words, unlike non-hierarchael data structures typically found in conventional databases such as in Hasegawa and the VMS 18 of Brown, incompatabilities between incomplete telephone numbers (e.g., lacking an area code or country code) in the query output by the recording device can be resolved with LDAP queries. Hence, the claimed use of LDAP queries by the recording device enables the recording device to bypass the translation service provider 10.

The hypothetical combination of Hasegawa and Brown neither discloses nor suggests sending the LDAP query from the recording device at the calling party premises, but rather rely on the translation service provider 10 to generate the LDAP query on behalf of the "client" (i.e., HRR 114, illustrated in Brown as the VMS 18).

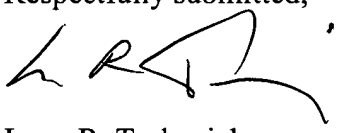
For these and other reasons, the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

The §103 rejection of dependent claims 51-54 is moot in view of the foregoing amendments.

In view of the above, it is believed this application is and condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-1130, under Order No. 95-475, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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